

## Testimony Opposing HB 6667 and HB6816 And Supporting HB 6817

**This Testimony Opposes HB 6667 and HB 6816 and Supports HB 6817.** I am a recent retiree that has fond teenage memories of Skeet Shooting years ago at a public range in New Haven. In Retirement, I finally have the time to enjoy a shooting sport once again. I am a law-abiding citizen, have a valid Connecticut Carry Permit, and take ongoing online and instructor lead training. I legally own several types of handguns and a CT Other, and thoroughly enjoy the challenge of target shooting. I also enjoy the camaraderie associated with shooting at a local shooting range. **HB 6667 seriously infringes on my ability and right to legally own and carry a firearm. The banning of my legally owned CT Other and making me an instant Class D Felon is particularly offensive to me and to many others objecting to this bill.** More specifics for my opposition to HB 6667 and HB6816 and my support for HB 6817 follows.

### **Opposing HB 6667 An Act Addressing Gun Violence**

Almost all of this bill restricts or eliminates the my rights as a law-abiding legal gun owner, and does little to seriously stop criminals that carry and are arrested with illegal firearms. Of particular notice to me are:

**Section 1 Lines 7-15 which should be deleted:** No change to the open carry law should be made. Under these new provisions the slightest imprinting of a legally owned firearm under clothing **opens the concealed carriers to harassment from anti-gun activists and overzealous police officers.**

**Section 1 Lines 16-19 which should be deleted:** This change is will unnecessarily prohibit legal conceal carry in restaurants and other places, and is so prohibitive that the next 43 lines had to be used to identify all of the possible exceptions.

**Section 7 Lines 587-609 should be deleted:** This new law provision is overly restrictive and now forces me to make my firearm purchases and sales only through an FFL at additional cost and time to me.

**Section 25 Lines 1412-1899 should be deleted:** This new section redefines the definition of an "Assault Weapon." **It is so inclusive that almost any semiautomatic firearm that is currently legal to own in CT would become illegal and it will certainly be challenged in State and Federal courts if it became law.** The expanded definition even makes many common rifle accessories illegal. Banning my legal CT Other and making me an instant Class D felon is particularly egregious to me. **When I purchased my CT Other firearm, it had to be within a certain barrel length and had to be equipped with a pistol grip to be legal. Under the new definition, having a detachable magazine and the exact same pistol grip makes the CT Other illegal and makes me a Class D Felon. This is a prime example of why gun owners find CT Gun Laws to be arbitrary and results in much distrust of government.**

### **Opposing HB 6816 (Raised): An Act Concerning Microstamping Enabled Pistols, Raising The Age To Purchase Ammunition and Restricting The Sale And Possession Of Body Armor.**

Unless microstamping was enacted at the Federal level, the effect of a CT requirement would be minimal. **Most illegal firearms used by criminals in CT likely come from out of state. It would also raise the cost of firearms in CT and further bloat State government expense to administer it.** Unless there can be produced hard statistics that there is a problem with 18-year-olds buying ammunition legally, the age limit should not be raised. I believe these stats do not exist. The same applies to body armor. Show me stats that the armor is being used by people with legal firearms to commit crimes. No stats, no change in law. Why should criminals carrying illegal firearms be given that advantage.

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### Supporting HB 6817 (Raised): An Act Concerning An Individual's Rights To Own, Possess or Carry A Firearm.

I support all 13 listed items in the bill. In particular, CT pursuing reciprocity Agreements with other states like Florida (item 8) would permit for example my family members to bring their firearms with them when they visit CT to target shoot at the local Range with other family members. I especially support item 11 concerning the State publishing detailed information and statistics on crimes and fatalities involving firearms. These stats should confirm that the problem lies with a small number of criminals using illegal firearms and not with law abiding citizens with legal firearms that is the source of so many misguided anti-gun bills.